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Letter dated 8 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that during the presidency of Romania, the Security Council is scheduled to have a debate on the subject "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes" on Tuesday, 20 July 2004.

The presidency has prepared the attached non-paper to help guide the discussion on this subject (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mihnea **Motoc**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Non-paper for the Romanian presidency's thematic debate 20 July 2004

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes

Purpose of debate

1. The thematic debate proposed by Romania during its presidency of the Security Council in July 2004 is focused primarily on the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes. The purpose of the meeting is to identify new methods of cooperation and interaction between the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as innovative approaches in conflict stabilization processes.

Background

2. On the eve of the sixtieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council continues to have the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. However, the nature of new security risks and threats facing the international community has largely surpassed the security framework envisioned at the end of the Second World War, calling into question the strategies and instruments used by the United Nations in the fulfilment of its mandate. In response, within the last decade, the United Nations has developed an array of approaches, including the development and promotion of strategic partnerships and cooperative arrangements with regional organizations. Regional organizations are increasingly recognized as instrumental mechanisms in the new collective security system, playing a central role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, including the management of stabilization processes.

3. Regional organizations offer unique advantages in stabilization processes: they are the main depositaries of regional expertise, major stakeholders when it comes to regional security and, as the instruments that organize dialogue and cooperation, are effective conflict prevention tools.

4. Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations spells out the principles guiding the role of regional arrangements and agencies. The activities of regional organizations must be undertaken in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter. However, the Charter provides no precise definition of regional organizations, therefore allowing for a variety of cooperative efforts.

5. The Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace" of 1992 introduced the concept of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations as a means of strengthening the capacity of the United Nations for preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping. In 1993, the Security Council reaffirmed the importance of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, inviting regional organizations to study ways to strengthen their functions and improve coordination of their efforts with those of the United Nations.

Reflecting interest in the regional approach, in 1994 the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security. In addition, five "high-level meetings" have been held between the United Nations Secretariat and heads of regional organizations, the most recent one convened by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in July 2003. The President of the Security Council was invited to participate in each meeting.

6. Contemporary threats to international peace and security no longer emanate exclusively from inter-state wars. Rather, armed conflict, intra-state wars and failed and failing states dominate the international security environment. Within the context of globalization and increased interdependence, their protracted and incremental evolution pose a security risk to regional stability and become breeding grounds for international terrorism, organized crime and arms proliferation. Particularly vulnerable to these new threats are societies emerging from conflicts, which must cope with lingering tensions, hostilities and violence.

7. Building sustainable peace requires a new vocabulary of stabilization responses in peace processes. Stabilization is not only post-conflict. Rather it is manifest on all points of the continuum of peace efforts, encompassing a comprehensive range of peace activities. As stabilization is a gradual and reversible process, it integrates the two priorities of the United Nations, peace and development, working to contain, manage and transform conflicts.

8. Most urgent, and yet paradoxically most difficult to bring about, stabilization processes encompass, inter alia, three areas of activities: first, security or the cessation of hostility; second, steps towards consolidating peace; and third, measures for reconstruction and reconciliation. These include tasks aimed at establishing law and order, repairing basic infrastructure, creating a form of interim local governance and gathering "cultural insights" to help create an understanding of how societies function.

9. Devising mechanisms for sustainable peace is particularly important as the demand for nation-building peace missions can only increase. Within the last 10 years, we have witnessed an average of nearly two new post-conflict cases per year, with larger and more complex nations requiring reconstruction.

Areas for recommendation

10. Reinforcing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations demands innovative and pragmatic efforts to pool together all stabilization resources available to make optimal and rational use of them in any given situation. In addition, energetic support from Member States is needed to strengthen the capability of regional organizations in all parts of the world and to ensure that they have the institutions, resources, manpower, training, military and logistics needed to carry out stabilization activities.

11. Particularly important in this context is the interplay between the Secretary-General, the Security Council and regional organizations. Whereas each peace operation is sui generis and requires special attention and decisions of its own, policies should be developed and lessons learned derived from past operations to give better support for future peace operations. In addition to enhancing strategic

collaboration, efforts should be made to develop a framework for cooperation to improve the operational relationship on the ground.

Issues for debate

12. Members of the Security Council are expected to partake in discussions both on conceptual and practical issues and to exchange views on recent developments, identifying constraints to effective cooperation as well as suggestions for improvement. The invited regional organizations will have the opportunity to present their own experience and views on these subjects.

13. In addition to reviewing progress made since the meeting on "The Security Council and regional organizations: Facing the New Challenges to Peace and Security", initiated by Mexico during its presidency of the Security Council in April 2003, the following questions are most relevant for the Council's debate:

- **Subsidiarity**: Are some conflicts more appropriate for the Security Council and other more amenable to the regional approach?
- **Comparative advantage**: What operational procedures can be designed to ensure effective division of labour based on comparative advantages of the United Nations and regional organizations?
- **Linkage**: Given the economic purposes of many subregional and regional organizations, what is the relationship between regional economic integration and regional security? Does the former precede and facilitate the latter?
- **Exchange of information**: What operational mechanisms can be created to improve interaction between the Security Council and regional organizations and among regional organizations in stabilization processes? How can the Security Council assist in establishing such liaisons?
- **Channels of communication**: How can regular channels of communication be developed to promote dialogue and the coordination of stabilization efforts between the United Nations and regional organizations?
- **Cooperation and regional capacity development**: Can systematic patterns of cooperation in stabilization processes be established given the fact that there is no single universal recipe to be applied everywhere as all parts of the world are different? How can regional organizations assist one another conceptually and logistically with the aim of strengthening regional mechanisms for peace-building?
- **Root causes of conflict**: How can close interaction between the United Nations and regional organizations contribute to comprehensive strategies for mutually supportive stabilization efforts that address root causes of conflict?
- **Smooth transition**: In instances where missions deployed by regional organizations are followed by the deployment of a United Nations operation, what measures can be taken to ensure a smooth transition from regional activities to successful long-term United Nations efforts, taking into account issues such as timely mobilization and respect for regional ownership?
- **Monitoring**: Can processes for monitoring the efficiency of cooperation be elaborated taking into account best practices and lessons learned?

- **Oversight**: What mechanisms can be created to ensure the commonality of objectives, as well as adherence to the relevant provisions of the Charter, of stabilization processes undertaken by regional organizations?

Format

14. The meeting will be chaired by the Prime Minister of Romania. The Secretary-General is expected to open the debate. Leaders/representatives of regional organizations will also be invited to participate in the Council's deliberation of the theme.

Outcome

15. A presidential statement is envisaged at the end of the debate, with a view to further promoting and strengthening cooperation with regional organizations. Romania is considering the possibility of a Security Council resolution on the issue in 2005.